

Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 RSC-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 AID-20 MMS-04

A-01 DRC-01 /059 W

----- 125891

R 240840Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6494

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 3261

DEPARTMENT FOR: M - DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY BROWN: AF -
ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM: S/PRS - AMBASSADOR ANDERSON:
AF/W - AMBASSADOR AGGREY: AID/AF/R - ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
ADAMS; USUN FOR AMBASSADOR FERGUSON: CONAKRY, DAKAR,
GABORONE, LAGOS FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, APER, XA

SUBJ: ASSIGNMENT OF BLACK FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

REF: CONAKRY 1441

1. AGREE WITH REFTEL THAT BLACK ASSIGNMENTS TO AFRICA
ALREADY A SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC DISCUSSION AT
HOME AND ABROAD.

2. IN THAT CONNECTION, I WAS IN NEW YORK ATTENDING A
SPECIAL UN HUMAN RIGHTS SUB COMMISSION MEETING WHEN TOM
JOHNSON ARTICLE SURFACED. AS CONSEQUENCE I WAS ASKED
APPEAR ON NBC'S NEW YORK SHOW "BLACK PERSPECTIVE", SHOWN
ON CHANNEL FOUR, 1730 HRS., AUGUST 25, 1974. OTHER
PANEL MEMBERS WERE DR. HUGH SYMTHE, WHO SERVED AS U.S.

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AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA (65-67) AND MALTA (67-69); AND

CHARLES MAINA, CURRENT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO UN.

3. THRUST OF QUESTIONS PUT BY MODERATORS REV. EUGENE CHALLENGER AND GUS HENINGBURG (HEAD NY URBAN COALITION) WAS DETERMINE WHETHER POINTS RAISED JOHNSON ARTICLE VALID. IN RESPONSE I POINTED OUT MY AF ASSIGNMENTS FLOWED FROM MY OWN LONG-TERM INTEREST IN AND EXPERIENCE WITH AFRICA WHICH DATED BACK TO 1952 WHEN I FIRST VISITED CONTINENT AS JOURNALIST. ALSO INDICATED INTEREST HAD EARLIER GENESIS WHICH BEGAN 1939 AT UNIVERSITY WITH AFRICAN STUDENTS AMONG WHOM WERE AKO ADJEI, JONES QUARTEY, FRANCIS KWAME NKRUMAH OF GOCL COAST (LATER GHANA); FITZJOHN, SIERRA LEONE; AND MBADAWA, DESU AND IKEJIANE, NIGERIA.

4. I MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE MY TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE HAD BEEN IN AFRICA, I CONSIDERED MYSELF ASSIGNABLE WORLDWIDE. STRESSED MY EXPECTATION THAT NEXT ASSIGNMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE OUTSIDE AF, BUT NOT BECAUSE ANY PROBLEMS I HAVE IN SERVING IN AFRICA, BUT IN KEEPING WITH SECRETARY'S POLICY THAT OFFICERS NOT LIMIT THEIR SERVICE TO ONE GEOGRAPHIC AREA.

5. SYMTHE SPOKE OF HIS ACCEPTANCE AMONG POLITICIANS, CIVIL SERVANTS, AND CITIZENS OF COUNTRIES IN WHICH HE HAD SERVED IN THE SIXTIES AND TENDED BLAME DEPARTMENT FOR NOT BUILDING ON SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE HE AND OTHERS (WHARTON, HOLLAND) HAD. SYMTHE FELT THERE COULD BE NO VALID EXPLANATION FOR FACT THAT OF BLACKS HEADING USG DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, THEY WERE ALL FOUND IN AFRICA. SMYTHE ALSO CITED PROBLEM OF ATTITUDES OF SOME RECEIVING COUNTRIES AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED CASE FEW YEARS AGO OF BLACK AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATION TO CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY IN WHICH AGREEMENT NOT GIVEN. CONSENSUS OF PANEL WAS THIS NOT LIKELY OCCUR AT THIS TIME IF IT GENERALLY KNOWN DEPARTMENT ASSIGNING BLACKS ON WORLDWIDE BASIS.

6. MODERATORS ATTEMPTED GET MAINA SAY WHETHER HIS GOVERNMENT HAD OFFICIAL ATTITUDE ON SUCH ASSIGNMENTS. MAINA FINESSED THAT, HOWEVER, BY SAYING THERE NO OFFICIAL KENYA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION, BUT HE CERTAIN CRITERION WOULD BE FITNESS OF CANDIDATE. HE INCLUDED QUALITIES OF SENSITIVITY AND PRIOR EXPERIENCE ALONG WITH RESPOECT HELD FOR CANDIDATE BY USG AS BEING PART OF "FITNESS".

7. PROGRAM WAS OBJECTIVE. I HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT A DOZEN POSITIVE LETTERS FROM VIEWERS, SOME OF WHOM WERE KNOWN TO ME.

8. INTERESTING ASIDE ON THIS HAS BEEN COMMENTS MADE ON JOHNSON ARTICLE FIRST IN NY AT UN AND THEN BY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES HERE. BELGIAN TELLS ME ARTICLE WAS PHOTO-COPIED AND SENT FOR HIS COMMENTS BY HIS WASHINGTON EMBASSY. BELGIAN CLAIMS HE RESPONDED THAT HE DIDN'T SEE WHERE THE PROBLEM WAS. ASSUMED BLACKS COULD AND SHOULD SERVE IN SAME CIRCUMSTANCES AS WHITES.

9. COMMENT: I HAD NOT PLANNED REPORTING ON TV PROGRAM. WASN'T CERTAIN IT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO DEPARTMENT -- AND THOUGHT REPORTING MIGHT SEEM SELF-SERVING. AM DOING SO NOW IN VIEW OF REFTEL AND BECAUSE IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR SPOKESMAN IN EVENT OF INQUIRIES THIS BROAD SUBJECT. IN ANY EVENT, HAVE JUST READ THERE NO RPT NO FEMALES AMONG JAPANESE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS. IF THIS ACCURATE, THEN I GUESS USG MAKING MORE PROGRESS IN UTILIZING ALL OUR CITIZENS. END COMMENT.
CARTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, PRESS COMMENTS, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DARES03261
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740268-0518
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740920/aaaaaqmi.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CONAKRY 1441
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSIGNMENT OF BLACK FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL
TAGS: PFOR, APER, XA, US, (JOHNSON, TOM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005